



POST VISION REQUIREMENTS WAIVER

This form must be filled out and signed by the examining Ophthalmologist or Optometrist. The original form must be sent to POST. No copies or faxes will be accepted. This is a three page form.

Dear Physician:

_____ of the _____ is requesting a medical waiver for
Chief, Sheriff, other Agency/Department
_____ from the Peace Officer Standards and Training
Officer/Deputy

(P.O.S.T.) Council's minimum vision requirements. The requirements for **visual acuity** are based upon the Idaho Law Enforcement Job Task Analysis Study, which describes the need for visual acuity as:

Normal visual functioning is related to the work of Idaho Law Enforcement Officers, therefore reasonable standards for vision may be established. The Idaho Law Enforcement Officer Job Task Analysis study indicates a clear need for adequate visual functioning to perform the duties of an Idaho Law Enforcement Officer. These duties include: *identify and protect crime scene, use observation skills, operate vehicle under emergency conditions, assess hazards, testify in court, engage in high-risk tactics, discharge firearms-combat, determine children in imminent danger, patrol streets, direct traffic and respond to crime in progress (high risk).*

Studies have shown that people with 20/20 vision can identify faces with 50% accuracy at 14 yards; those with 20/30 vision have a 50% accuracy at 8 yards. With 20/40 vision, facial identification is only 50% accurate at 4.4 yards. With 20/20 vision, people can read a license plate at 100 feet or 6 car lengths (generally considered a safe following distance at 60 miles per hour: National Safety Council); with 20/40 vision they can read a license plate only at 50 feet or three car lengths. With 20/20 vision a person can identify weapons up to 25 yards away; with 20/40 they can consistently identify weapons only at 7 yards. At over 20/40 vision people cannot legally drive in the State of Idaho.

Normal peripheral vision is important to the law enforcement officer who drives under emergency conditions, is faced with an angry crowd, and who may need to see a threat coming from both sides simultaneously. Restricting the binocular horizontal field to 120 degrees in each eye may have no impact, but further restriction to 60 degrees significantly impairs performance. In a 1983 study, accident and conviction rates of drivers with visual field loss in both eyes were more than twice as high as those with *normal visual fields*. Another study showed that 85% of people with a variety of field defects had significantly decreased reaction times to stimuli presented in visual areas of relevance to traffic safety, even though they were free to move their heads during testing. The Federal Department of Transportation requires commercial drivers to have a horizontal field of at least 140 degrees.

Color-blindness is a concern. The Job Task Analysis study has shown that Idaho Law Enforcement Officers must accurately identify people and objects, such as cars and clothing. Officers who testify in court lose credibility as witnesses if they cannot be certain whether an automobile was red, green, blue, yellow or gray. Studies have shown that color-blind people have difficulty distinguishing the color of traffic lights; they confuse traffic lights with streetlights; they have trouble seeing brake lights on cars. People who are color-blind to red are also blind to green, and people who cannot see blue cannot see yellow either.

P.O.S.T. MINIMUM VISION REQUIREMENTS

Based upon the Idaho Law Enforcement Officer Job Task Analysis Study an officer must meet the following minimum requirements:

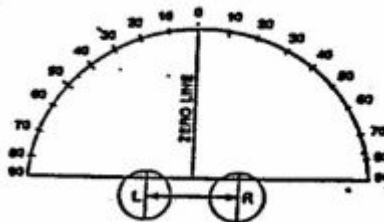
Initial appropriate box:

Vision Requirement	Meets Minimum	Does Not Meet Minimum
Possess normal binocular coordination		
Depth proficiency of a minimum of one minute of arc at 20 feet.		
Peripheral vision shall be binocularly 200° laterally with 60° upward and 70° downward. There must be no pathology of the eye.		
Possess 70% proficiency of the Dvorine or equivalent color discrimination test.		
Applicants with worse than 20/20 vision must meet the following requirements: Uncorrected vision in each eye must be no worse than 20/200, with the weaker eye correct to 20/60 and the stronger eye corrected to 20/20. <u>A full eye examination shall be administered by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to any applicant whose uncorrected vision in either eye is 20/150 or worse.</u>		
Contact lenses are exempt from the uncorrected vision of 20/200, BUT must have the strong eye corrected to 20/20 and the weaker eye corrected to 20/60.		

Visual Acuity (test and record acuity both with and without glasses/contacts):

- a. Without glasses **R20/**_____ **L20/**_____
- b. With glasses/ contacts **R20/**_____ **L20/**_____
- c. Depth perception _____
- d. Color perception % _____
- e. Pupils: _____
- f. Eye Grounds: _____
- g. Form Fields of Vision (Temporal) each eye on zero line:
Right Eye _____ Left Eye _____
- h. Corrective Lenses Worn: None _____ Glasses _____ Contact Lenses _____ Both _____
(Record degrees of temporal fields obtained by instrumentation or confrontation in spaces above and on diagram)

NOTE ANY ABNORMALITY



PLEASE COMPLETE ALL ITEMS – INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

In order for P.O.S.T. to issue a waiver to these requirements, we need a *letter* from you that you have full knowledge of these requirements and the functions of a law enforcement officer where normal vision is necessary, and that you are recommending that a waiver be issued. You must state that it is your medical opinion that the officer's vision disability and inability to meet the P.O.S.T. medical requirements for visual acuity will not affect his/her ability to fully perform the job tasks of a Peace Officer in the State of Idaho.

Signature of Physician: _____ Date _____
(must be an original signature. No stamped signatures will be accepted.)

Printed name of Physician: _____
(note: person completing this exam must be an ophthalmologist or vision specialist)

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Revised January 2005